

## CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An ~~E~~expandable intragastric balloon designed to be implanted inside the stomach of a patient for the treatment of obesity, ~~and comprising:~~

~~-(a)~~ a first pouch (2) that is sufficiently flexible to pass from a reduced-volume configuration to an expanded configuration, and provided with at least one port (3),

~~-(b)~~ a second pouch (20) arranged so as to contain the first pouch (2), and provided with at least one hole (21), and

~~-(c)~~ a sealing member (4) fastened onto the second pouch (20) in a leak-proof manner, and designed to seal said port (3) and said hole (21),

~~characterized in that wherein~~ the first and the second pouches (2, 20) are made of different, non-compatible materials and are assembled together with the aid of a fastening element (7) designed to ensure the leak-proof fastening of the sealing member (4) onto the first pouch (2), inside a passage (6) defined by a neck (5) extending from the port (3), by exerting a sufficient amount of pressure on said neck (5) in order to pinch it between the sealing member (4) and the fastening element (7).

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~i~~ntragastric balloon of eClaim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sealing member (4) and the second pouch (20) are made of compatible materials, and ~~in that wherein~~ the sealing member (4) is fastened onto the second pouch (20) by welding or gluing.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~i~~ntragastric balloon ~~as claimed in of~~ eClaim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sealing member 4 comprises a flange (4B) enabling it to be fastened onto the periphery of the hole (21) in a leak-proof manner, ~~e.g., by~~ gluing or welding the flange (4B) together with the periphery of the hole (21).

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~i~~ntragastric balloon ~~as claimed in of~~ eClaim 1, 2 ~~or 3~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sealing member (4) comprises a septum (4A) arranged inside the passage (6) substantially opposite the fastening element (7).

5. ~~(Currently Amended) The Intragastic balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 1 to 4,~~  
~~characterized in that wherein the fastening element (7) is designed to sufficiently compress the~~  
~~septum (4A) the fastening element is designed to sufficiently compress the sealing member,~~  
~~particularly the septum,~~ in order to ensure the leak tightness thereof, with respect to the fluids  
likely to be contained inside the first pouch (2).
6. ~~(Currently Amended) The Intragastic balloon as claimed on one of the preceding eClaims 1,~~  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the neck (5) extends from the port (3) towards the interior of the  
first pouch (2).
7. ~~(Currently Amended) The Intragastic balloon as claimed in one of the preceding eClaims 1,~~  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the neck (5) ~~comprising comprises~~ an internal wall (5A) defining  
said passage (6), ~~and~~ the fastening element (7) is arranged so as to surround the neck (5) and to  
exert pressure on the circumference thereof, such that the internal wall (5A) of the neck (5)  
conforms in shape substantially to the sealing member (4), in a leak-proof manner.
8. ~~(Currently Amended) The Intragastic balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 1 to 7,~~  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the fastening element (7) ~~consists of comprises~~ a ring (8).
9. ~~(Currently Amended) The Intragastic balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 1 to 8,~~  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the first pouch (2) is made of polyurethane, ~~and~~ the second pouch  
(20) ~~being is~~ made of silicone.
10. ~~(Currently Amended) The Intragastic balloon as claimed in one of Claim 1 the preceding~~  
~~claims, characterized in that wherein~~ the sealing member (4) ~~consists of comprises~~ a silicone  
valve.
11. ~~(Currently Amended) The Intragastic balloon as claimed in one of eClaims 1 to 10,~~  
~~characterized in that it comprises~~ ~~further comprising~~ a ballasting means (30) designed to  
substantially weigh down the balloon.

12. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon of eClaim 11, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the ballasting means (30) ~~consist of~~comprises a plurality of solid and dense bodies (31) joined together by thread portions (32).

13. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon of eClaim 12, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the ballasting means (30) comprise spacers (33) arranged between two consecutive bodies (31) so as to prevent shocks.

14. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~as claimed in one of e~~Claims 10 ~~to 13,~~  
~~characterized in that~~wherein the ballasting means (30) is supported by the fastening element (7).

15. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~as claimed in of e~~Claims 12 ~~and 14,~~  
~~characterized in that~~wherein one of the ends of the thread joining together the bodies (31) is ~~firmly~~attached to the fastening element (7).

16. (Currently Amended) The intragastric balloon ~~as claimed in one of e~~Claims 11 ~~to 15,~~  
~~characterized in that~~wherein the ballasting means (30) is arranged inside the first pouch (2).

17. (Currently Amended) A Method of manufacturing an expandable intragastric balloon (4) designed to be implanted inside the stomach of a patient for the treatment of obesity, ~~wherein provisions are made for~~comprising:

~~-(a) a step for~~ manufacturing at least one first pouch (2) that is sufficiently flexible to pass from a reduced-volume configuration to an expanded configuration, and that is provided with at least one port (3);

~~-(b) a step for~~ assembling the first pouch (2) together with a second pouch (20), provided with at least one hole (21), with the result being that the first pouch (2) is contained inside the second pouch (20);

~~-(c) a step for~~ manufacturing a sealing member (4) designed to seal said port (3) and said hole (21); and

~~-(d) a step for~~ fastening the sealing member (4) onto the second pouch (20) in a substantially leak-proof manner,

~~characterized in that~~wherein, in order to assemble the first and the second pouch ~~(2, 20)~~, the method comprises:

- ~~-(e) a step for~~ mounting the sealing member (4) inside a passage (6) defined by a neck (5), extending from the port (3) of the first pouch (2),
- ~~-(f) a step for~~ fastening the sealing member (4) onto the first pouch (2) with the aid of a suitable fastening element (7), by pinching said neck (5) between the sealing member (4) and the fastening element (7).

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~M~~method of ~~e~~Claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the step for fastening the sealing member (4) onto the second pouch (20) is carried out by welding or gluing.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~M~~method ~~as claimed in of e~~Claim 17 ~~or 18~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the sealing member (4) comprises a flange (4B) and ~~in that~~ the method comprises a sub-step wherein said flange (4B) is welded or glued ~~together with~~about the periphery of the hole (21).

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~M~~method ~~as claimed in one of e~~Claims 17 ~~to 19~~, ~~characterized in that it comprises further comprising a the~~ step ~~(b) for of~~ turning over the neck (5) such that it is situated inside the first pouch ~~(2)~~.

21. (New) The intragastric balloon of Claim 2, wherein the sealing member comprises a flange enabling it to be fastened onto the periphery of the hole in a leak-proof manner by gluing or welding the flange about the periphery of the hole.

22. (New) The intragastric balloon of Claim 2, wherein the sealing member comprises a septum arranged inside the passage substantially opposite the fastening element.

23. (New) The intragastric balloon of Claim 3, wherein the sealing member comprises a septum arranged inside the passage substantially opposite the fastening element.

24. (New) The intragastric balloon of Claim 14, wherein one of the ends of the thread joining together the bodies is attached to the fastening element.

25. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the sealing member comprises a flange and the method comprises a sub-step wherein said flange is welded or glued about the periphery of the hole.